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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: S. Schleicher Serial No.: 10/017,858 Filing Date: December 14, 2001 Docket No.: 21464-301100 Title: "DOCUMENT EXCHANGE"	<u>Certificate of Mailing under 37 CFR 1.8(a)</u> I hereby certify that this paper (along with any attachments referred to as being enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in an envelop with sufficient postage as first class mail addressed to Initial Patent Examination, United States Patent and Trademarks Office, Commissioner of Patents, Washington D.C. 20231 on Date: May 16, 2002 by <i>Lori Cox</i> Group Art Unit 2176
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Initial Patent Examination
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.115 Technology Center 2100

Before examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the amendment as provided herein.

In the claims:

Please amend claim 1 as indicated in the **appendix A** section of this paper, and add new claims as indicated below. The **clean version** of claim 1 and the **new claims** read as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for exchanging documents in transactions between partners that are joined in an exchange network, the partners communicating with each other via a hub entity, the method comprising:

setting up an agreement associated with each document type for each partner that joins the exchange network;

placing in a file receive location a document from a first partner, the file receive location being password protected such that only a partner that provides a correct identity with any document it sends may place that document at the file receive location; and

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02 FC:202

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